



Secure Transfer of Select Agents

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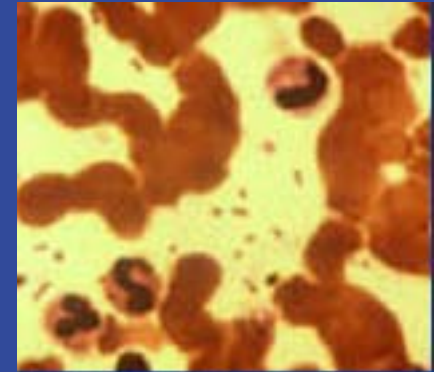
Introduction

- Advances in public health and microbiological research requires domestic and international transfers of select agents
- Transfers of select agents involves a wide range of facilities and carriers
- Select agent transfer security is a critical component of a comprehensive biosecurity program
 - Material is vulnerable to theft during movement outside of controlled areas
- Bioscience facilities, select agent carriers, and states all have responsibility for transport security



Select Agent Transfer Process

- Internal transfers
 - Movement of select agents to and from laboratory areas within a facility
 - May involve laboratory, shipping, and receiving personnel
- External transfers
 - Movement of select agents from one facility to another facility
 - May involve commercial carriers





Transfer Security

- Objective: mitigate risk of theft or diversion of select agents during transfer
- Strategies
 - Document, account for, and control select agents when moving between protected areas within a facility
 - Receive authorization and monitor external transfers between registered facilities before, during, and after external transport
 - Utilize methods to protect select agent shipments within commercial systems



U.S. Transfer Security Regulations

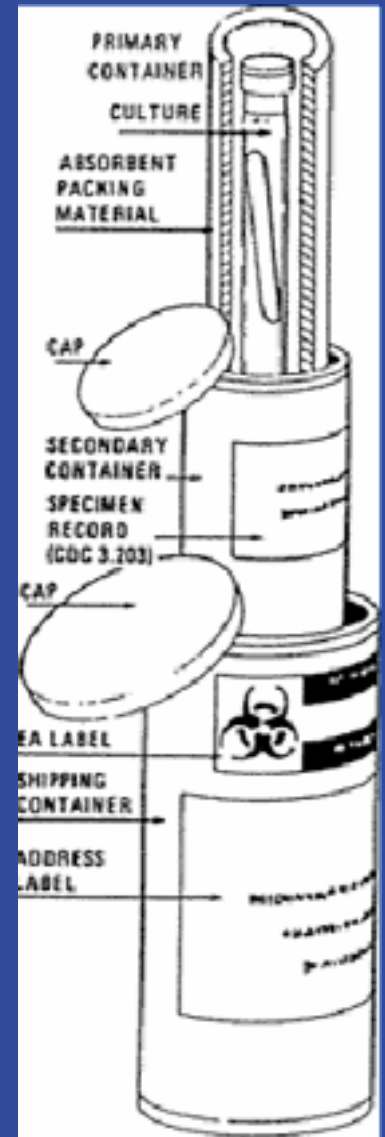
- Facility requirements
 - Register facility with appropriate agency
 - Receive authorization before shipment, verify receipt
- Carrier requirements
 - Personnel reliability standards
 - Access control at transport facilities
 - En-route security
 - Recurrent security training
- Export requirements
 - International shipments require export license



International Shipping Standards



- Packaging, labeling, and marking standards address biosafety concerns
 - UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
 - World Health Organization (WHO)
 - International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
 - International Air Transport Association (IATA)
 - Universal Postal Union's (UPU)
- Opportunity for security collaboration





Facility Responsibilities

- Internal Transfers
 - Screen personnel who have access to select agents or related information during transfer
 - Establish internal chain-of-custody documentation and procedures
 - Provide physical security for packages that require temporary storage and/or must await commercial transport
 - Protect select agent transfer-related information





Facility Responsibilities

- External Transfers
 - Utilize carriers that ensure timely delivery, confirmation, and package tracking capabilities
 - Notify receiver and sender before and after shipment between facilities
 - Limit amount of material moved to allow for air carriage when possible
 - Understand commercial carrier's security practices for dangerous goods
 - Employ tamper indicating methods to secondary container when necessary





Carrier Responsibilities

- External Transfers
 - Only allow reliable and trustworthy employees to handle, load or transport select agents
 - Prohibit unauthorized access to facilities, loading docks, and vehicles where select agents may be located
 - Create and adhere to en-route security plans
 - Track shipping progress of select agents





National Implementation

- Coordinate efforts with international institutions that currently provide safety guidance or are involved in commercial supply business
- Ensure adequate security of select agents during transfer
- Initiate system for agency authorization prior to external transfers



Summary

- Necessary to take steps that mitigate the threat of theft of select agents during transfer and transport
 - Bioscience facilities, carriers, and states have different responsibilities
 - Design security standards that address the threats of materials in transit, while also recognizing the legitimate scientific need to transfer select agents